

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ROANOKE DIVISION

CHASE T. KAUFMANN,)
Plaintiff,) Civil Action No. 7:22cv00059
v.)
CAPT. ROB COLEMAN,)
Defendant.)
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MEMORANDUM OPINION
By: Hon. Thomas T. Cullen
United States District Judge

Plaintiff Chase T. Kaufmann, a Virginia inmate proceeding *pro se*, filed this civil action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, against Captain Rob Coleman. Kaufmann seeks leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* with this action. Having reviewed Kaufmann's request and amended complaint, the court grants his request to proceed *in forma pauperis*, but concludes that Kaufmann has failed to state a cognizable federal claim against Capt. Coleman. Therefore, the court will dismiss Kaufmann's complaint without prejudice under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B)(ii).

After the court advised him that his original complaint failed to state a cognizable claim against Capt. Coleman (ECF No. 7), Kaufmann filed an amended complaint (ECF No. 8). In his amended complaint, Kaufmann alleges “use of excessive force, cruel and unusual punishment, improper technique of detaining an inmate, used a choking grip manner in jail gym on camera on 10/31/21 at about 9:45 a.m.” Kaufmann seeks \$5 million for “pain and suffering.” (ECF No. 8, at 2.)

To state a cause of action under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege facts indicating that he has been deprived of rights guaranteed by the Constitution or laws of the United States and that this deprivation resulted from conduct committed by a person acting under color of state

law. *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42 (1988). The Eighth Amendment protects inmates from cruel and unusual punishment. See *Wilson v. Seiter*, 501 U.S. 294, 296-97 (1991); *Williams v. Benjamin*, 77 F.3d 756, 761 (4th Cir. 1996). To succeed on an excessive-force claim, a prisoner must establish that “the officials acted with a sufficiently culpable state of mind,” and that “the alleged wrongdoing was objectively harmful enough to establish a constitutional violation.” *Hudson v. McMillian*, 503 U.S. 1, 8 (1992) (quotation and alteration omitted); see *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 834 (1994).

Despite being given the opportunity to amend his complaint, Kaufmann fails to allege any fact against Capt. Coleman and, thus, the court cannot determine whether Capt. Coleman was involved *at all* in the alleged violation of Kaufmann’s rights. Accordingly, the court will dismiss this action without prejudice for failure to state a claim. The court notes that this dismissal is without prejudice to Kaufmann’s opportunity to refile his claims, with additional information, in a separate civil action, subject to the applicable statute of limitations.

The clerk is directed to forward a copy of this Memorandum Opinion and accompanying Order to Kaufmann.

ENTERED this 17th day of March, 2022.

/s/ Thomas T. Cullen
HON. THOMAS T. CULLEN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE